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Application Number	09/698,378
Filing Date	October 27, 2000
First Named Inventor	William Kopaciewicz
Group Art Unit	1723
Examiner Name	Fortuna, A.
Attorney Docket Number	550P002C3

Total Number of Pages in This Submission **4**

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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Remarks

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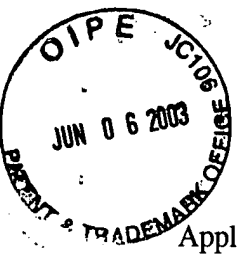
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : William Kopaciewicz, et al.
Serial No. : 09/698,378
Filed : October 27, 2000
For : CAST MEMBRANE STRUCTURES FOR SAMPLE PREPARATION
Examiner : Fortuna, A.
Art Unit : 1723
Attorney :
Docket No. : 550P002C3

Commissioner for Patents
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on June 2, 2003 (Date)

Kevin S. Lemack
Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

[Signature]
Signature

June 2, 2003
Date

Sir:

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REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 19, 2003 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-16 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-10 and 11-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,048,457. The Examiner states that the claims are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims in the present invention are directed to the housing provided with the tridimensional structure comprising a plurality of sorptive particles entrapped in a porous polymer matrix, with the housing being a pipette and having the aspect ratio as in claims 3 and 5 of the present invention, and these and other limitations are included in the claims of the patent.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.